

Introduction

passing places

Where did Travellers come from?

The first Gypsy people migrated into Europe from India in the Middle Ages, arriving here in the 15th Century. Due to the darkness of their complexion, it was thought they had come from Egypt and were called 'Egyptians', hence the spelling of 'Gypsy' from 'Egypt'.



Centre: Jack Newton Right: Lovina Lee 'Patsy' Near Cuffley, Herts 1919 Image: University of Liverpool



Left - right: Zahn, Clairly, Pouppe & Carlo, Belgian Gypsies, Barnet Herts, 1921 Image: University of Liverpool



Parker Family on Berkhamsted Common, Herts, early 1970's Image: Diane Allen



Irish Travellers at Ridge Herts

Who are the Travellers?

Gypsies are only one of the groups that are included in the term 'Travellers', this is a commonly used term that includes people from a variety of groups, all of whom are or were nomadic.

The main groups are:

- English Gypsies
- Irish
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Circus people
- Romany Gypsy refugees and asylum seekers
- Fairground and Show people
- Bargee and water craft Travellers
- New Travellers (people from the settled community, originated in the 1960s Hippy movement)

How many Travellers are there?

It has been estimated that there are 300,000* Gypsies and Travellers in the UK.



Mr Levi Parker

Boo & Keith New Travellers

Sweley Howell and Gary Hastler, Henry Hastler (front) near the mini striker at Chelmsford Central Park. Image Jane Hastler

Image: Mrs Charty Cooper

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* Source: Commission for Racial Equality, 2003